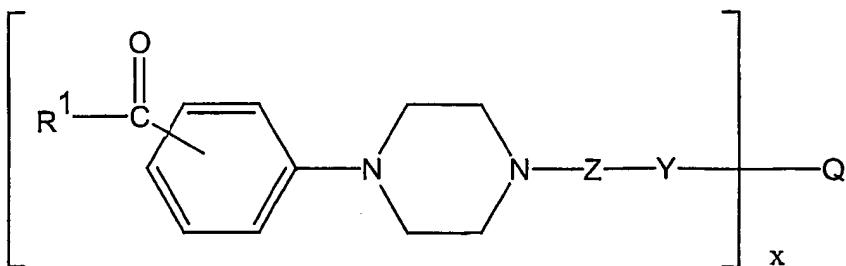


**CLAIMS:**

1. A compound of formula (I):



where:

R<sup>1</sup> represents a methyl group, an ethyl group, a C<sub>5</sub> or C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl group or a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryl group, said aryl group being unsubstituted or being substituted by at least one C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy group;

Z represents a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> arylene group or a group of formula -(CHR<sup>4</sup>)<sub>n</sub>-, where R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or a C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>4</sub> alkyl group, and n is a number from 0 to 6;

Y represents a carbonyl group or a --CH<sub>2</sub>-- group, provided that R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydroxy group when Y represents a --CH<sub>2</sub>-- group;

Q represents a residue of a mono- or poly- hydroxy compound having from 1 to 6 hydroxy groups; and

x is a number from 1 to 6;

and esters thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, where Z represents a group of formula -(CHR<sup>4</sup>)<sub>n</sub>-, and n is 1.
3. A compound according to Claim 2, in which R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or an ethyl group.
4. A compound according to Claim 3, where R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom.
5. A compound according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, in which n is a number from 2 to 6 and one group R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1</sub> - C<sub>4</sub> alkyl group, and the other or others of R<sup>4</sup> represent hydrogen atoms.
6. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, in which Z represents a phenylene group.

7. A compound according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein Q represents a group of formula  $-A_x-Q'$ , where:

A represents a group of formula  $-[O(CHR^2CHR^3)_a]_y-$ ,  $-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_y-$  or

$-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_{(y-1)}-[O(CHR^2CHR^3)_a]-$ ; where:

$R^2$  and  $R^3$  are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a  $C_1 - C_4$  alkyl group;

a is a number from 1 to 2;

b is a number from 4 to 5; and

y is a number from 1 to 10;

x is a number from 1 to 6; and

$Q'$  represents a residue of a mono- or poly- hydroxy compound having from 1 to 6 hydroxy groups.

8. A compound according to Claim 7, in which y is a number from 3 to 10.

9. A compound according to Claim 8, in which A represents a group of formula

$-[O(CHR^{13}CHR^{14})_a]_y-$  where a is an integer from 1 to 2, and y is a number from 3 to 10.

10. A compound according to Claim 8, in which A represents a group of formula

$-[OCH_2CH_2]_y-$ ,  $-[OCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2]_y-$  or  $-[OCH(CH_3)CH_2]_y-$ , where y is a number from 3 to 10.

11. A compound according to Claim 8, in which A represents a group of formula

$-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_y-$ , where b is a number from 4 to 5 and y is a number from 3 to 10.

12. A compound according to Claim 8, in which A represents a group of formula

$-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_{(y-1)}-[O(CHR^2CHR^1)_a]-$ , where a is a number from 1 to 2, b is a number from 4 to 5 and y is a number from 3 to 10.

13. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 12, in which x is 2 and y is a number from 1 to 10.

14. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 13, in which y is a number from 3 to 6.

15. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 14, in which the residue  $Q-(A)_x$  has a molecular weight no greater than 2000.

16. A compound according to Claim 15, in which the residue  $Q'-(A)_x$  has a molecular weight no greater than 1200.

17. A compound according to Claim 16, in which the residue  $Q'-(A)_x$  has a molecular weight

no greater than 1000.

18. A compound according to Claim 17, in which the residue  $Q'-(A-x)$  has a molecular weight no greater than 800.
19. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 18, in which  $Q'$  is a residue of a polyalkylene glycol, in which the alkylene part has from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.
20. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 18, in which  $Q'$  is a residue of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, glycerol, 2,2-propanediol, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polybutylene glycol, trimethylolpropane, di-trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol or di-pentaerythritol.
21. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, in which  $x$  is 1.
22. A compound according to Claim 20, in which  $Q$  is the residue of a compound of formula  $R^1-OH$ .
23. A compound according to Claim 21, in which  $Q$  is a  $C_1 - C_6$  alkoxy group or a phenoxy group.
24. A compound according to Claim 21 or Claim 22, in which  $Z$  is a phenylene group.
25. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, in which  $Q$  is a residue of a polyalkylene glycol, in which the alkylene part has from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.
26. A compound according to Claim 25, in which  $Q$  is a residue of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, glycerol, 2,2-propanediol, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polybutylene glycol, trimethylolpropane, di-trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol or di-pentaerythritol.
27. An energy-curable composition comprising: (a) a polymerisable monomer, prepolymer or oligomer; (b) a photoinitiator; and (c) a sensitiser which is a compound of formula (I), as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 26, or an ester thereof.
28. A process for preparing a cured polymeric composition by exposing a composition according to Claim 27 to curing energy.
29. A process according to Claim 28, in which the curing energy is ultraviolet radiation.